| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | distance limit can be relaxed by the Directorate in cases of special circumstances, explained clearly while submitting the proposals |
| 3. | Anticipated Income | The minimum anticipated revenue will be 33.33% of the cost | The minimum anticipated income will be 15% of the cost |

**Broadband services on commercial line**

2556. SHRI SURENDRA LATH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have a proposal to introduce broadband services on commercial lines;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL), in that regard; and

(c) the cities in which broadband services would be introduced in the first instance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is already providing High Speed Internet Access to its Basic Telephone Service subscribers through Direct Internet Access System (DIAS). Further, a franchise agreement has been signed by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) for provision of broadband services in cities of Kolkata, Pune, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Chennai, Ahmedabad and Chandigarh.

**Post offices in J&K**

2557. SHRI T.S. BAJWA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of post offices working in Jammu and Kashmir, district-wise;

(b) whether Government propose to increase and upgrade the existing post offices;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the criteria adopted for upgradation of the post offices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR) : (a) The number of post offices working in Jammu and Kashmir district-wise is given in the Statement-I, enclosed. (See below)

(b) to (d) During the current financial year 1 Departmental Sub Office (DSO), 5 Extra Departmental Branch Offices (EDBOs) and 10 Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras (PSSKs) are proposed to be opened in Jammu and Kashmir subject to fulfilment of norms. Post Offices are upgraded subject to compliance with specific norms fixed by the Department in this regard, details of which are given in the Statement-II

***Statement-I***

*District-wise number of Post offices in J&K Circle As on* 31-3-2003

| Sl.No. | Name of District | No. of Post Offices |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Anantanag | 161 |
| 2. | Baramula | 188 |
| 3. | Budgam | 85 |
| 4. | Doda | 131 |
| 5. | Jammu | 233 |
| 6. | Kargil | 52 |
| 7. | Kathua | 140 |
| 8. | Kupwara | 78 |
| 9. | Leh | 54 |
| 10. | Poonch | 61 |
| 11. | Pulwama | 103 |
| 12. | Rajouri | 126 |
| 13. | Shrinagar | 90 |
| 14. | Udhampur | 181 |
| | TOTAL : | 1683 |

***Statement-II***

*Criteria for upgrading/opening departmental sub-post offices:*

**(a) In Rural Areas :**

The minimum work load of the Extra Departmental Branch Post Office, proposed to be upgraded, should be five hours per day. The permissible limit of annual loss is Rs.2400/- in Normal Rural areas and Rs.4800/- in Tribal and Hilly areas.

**(b) In Urban Areas :**

In Urban areas, the post office should initially be self-supporting, and, at the time of the first annual review, it should show a 5% profit to be eligible for further retention.

The minimum distance between two post offices should be 1.5 Kms. in cities with a population of 20 lakhs and above, and 2 Kms. in other Urban Areas. No two-delivery offices, however, should be closer than 5 Kms. for each other.

Heads of Circles have powers to relax the distance condition in 10% of the cases.

A Delivery Post Office in Urban Area should have a minimum of 7 Postmen's beats.

**Mobile rates of MTNL and Private companies**

†2558. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the mobile rates of MTNL are at par with the mobile rates of other private companies;

(b) the position with regard to the use of MTNL service in comparison to other private companies; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) No, Sir. MTNL mobile tariffs are cheaper than the other cellular operators.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.